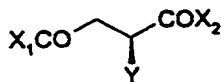




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(54) Title: **PROCESS FOR PREPARING R-(-)-CARNITINE FROM S-(-)-CHLOROSUCCINIC ACID OR FROM A DERIVATIVE THEREOF**



(1)

(57) Abstract

A process for the preparation of L-carnitine inner salt comprising the reduction, with a suitable reducing agent, of a compound of formula (I): where X_1 and X_2 , which may be the same or different, are hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, phenoxy, halogen, or X_1 and X_2 , when taken together are an oxygen atom and the resulting compound is a derivative of succinic anhydride; Y is halogen, the mesyloxy or the tosyloxy group: and subsequent treatment with water, then with a base and then with trimethylamine.